

THIRSK



Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S

♦ Annual Report ♦

for the Year Ending,
December 31st, 1913.

THIRSK:
J. Bell, Printer, Ingramgate.

Medical Officer's Report.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your District.

A. Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

Area of District (land and inland water)	64,024 acres.
Total Population at all ages	12,793
Number of inhabited houses	2,961
Average number of persons per house	4.32
At Census, 1911.	

A large proportion of the inhabitants of the District are engaged in Agriculture. The chief Industry in the Township of Thirsk and Sowerby is connected with Bamlett's Engineering Works. The District save on the East side where it rises to meet the Hambleton range of hills, is mostly flat and the soil is of a fairly open nature—a feature beneficial with regard to the health of the community. The various occupations and trades are such as are conducive to good health.

B. Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.—The prolonged drought throughout the Year 1913 was a severe test as regards the sufficiency of the water supplies throughout the Country. In Thirsk the test proved almost too searching. Had the supply to the North Eastern Railway Co. not been discontinued, and had it not been that water from many private wells was used for general purposes apart from human consumption we should have been faced with something approaching a water famine. Towards the end of September the water had assumed a muddy appearance and by the beginning of October was uninviting not only to the eye but to the palate. Not only in Thirsk and Sowerby was this scarcity of water felt but also in many of the outlying districts. The water for Thirsk and Sowerby is collected into a reservoir from a large area of moorland and in the absence of cultivation it is pure. In spite of what might be called the concentrated

condition of the water, and in spite also of the fact that it was turned off in the main from 6 p.m., until 7 a.m., no disease occurred as a direct result of this. At all events the reservoir became a feature of interest while the shortage continued. Although the climatic conditions throughout the year were unusual, it is imperatively necessary to guard against such a contingency in the future. During 1911 the water in the reservoir was very low, and stringent economical measures were necessary then. There are, however, some improvements to be introduced obviate further difficulty in this direction.

There is a water scheme at Kilburn, one at Sutton, and one for part of Thornton-le-Moor. Otherwise the water supply of the District is from wells. Waters from Dalton Moor, Sandhutton School, and Sinderby were found to be unfit for domestic purposes and notices were sent accordingly.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—I have been asked to report specifically on this and appended is a table giving the information.

- 1.—The Codbeck is polluted by sewage from Thirsk and Sowerby. The sewage from Thirsk passes in part directly into the stream and in part through interception tanks. The sewage from Sowerby passes through an interception tank.
- 2.—The Swale is polluted by sewage from Maunby, Skipton-Bridge, Catton and Topcliffe. In connection with the first named there are two interception tanks.
- 3.—The sewage from Newby-Wiske and South Otterington after passing through interception tanks is received into the Wiske.
- 4.—The Ure is polluted from Langthorpe by sewage passing directly into the stream and from Kirby Hill by sewage passed through interception tanks.
- 5.—The beck at Pickhill receives the sewage directly into the stream.
- 6.—The beck at Kilburn is polluted by sewage passing directly into the stream.

7.—The beck at Sutton is polluted by sewage passing directly into the stream.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The drainage of the District is being improved on to a certain extent. 93 cases of defective drainage are reported, 79 are remedied, and the rest are in hand. At Carlton Miniott a new length of sewer has been laid and other parts relaid.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—143 cases of insanitary privy ashpits have been dealt with most of which have been abolished and 134 pan closets substituted. Several sanitary dustbins have also been provided. 16 cases of insufficient sanitary accommodation have been found and most of these have been remedied.

SCAVENGING.—This is carried out in the township at night. The School ashpits and pan closets are cleaned out weekly—other ashpits once a month—interception tanks once in six months.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS of the DISTRICT.—786 inspections have been made during the year.

106 Informal Notices have been sent and 9 Statutory Notices sent. Total 115. These have been either acceded to or are going to be.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws or Regulations.—There are 10 slaughter houses and 42 cowsheds. These are reported on later.

There is in the District one model lodging house which has been inspected and found perfectly clean and satisfactory.

SCHOOLS.—The Schools in the District are on the whole satisfactory from a sanitary point of view. The Schools are being inspected systematically in conjunction with the Inspector of Nuisances and particulars of air space, ventilation, &c., taken. Those inspected during the year were found satisfactory save for small alterations now mostly carried out. One of the commonest defects was with regard to accommodation for hanging coats and hats. In all cases it was advised that each child should have a numbered peg for his or her coat and hat this being

advocated for such hygienic purposes as need not be specified. The following schools were closed during the undermentioned periods.

<i>Date</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Reason</i>
January 6th ..	Dalton ..	10 days..	Whooping Cough
June 4th ..	Thirsk Infants	3 days..	To disinfect for Scarlet Fever.
August 22nd...	Kirkby Knowle	14 days	Measles.

On account of cases of Scarlet Fever occurring in the National School and the British and Foreign School all the children in these schools were inspected to see whether any suspicious cases existed. One was isolated and this subsequently was found not to develop the disease.

Pickhill School was also inspected in connection with an epidemic of Whooping-Cough but it was thought unnecessary to close.

FOOD.

(a.) Milk Supply.—The milk supply is from the Townships and surrounding districts and is satisfactory. Inspections of cowhouses show a fairly satisfactory state of affairs. There are 42 cowsheds on the Register. Requests for improvements have been complied with.

(b.) Other Foods.—The slaughter houses in the District 10 in number have been inspected, and such defects as have been found have been remedied.

(c.) Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

Action under Sale of Food and Drugs Acts. Nil.

Action under Section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875. Nil.

Number of carcases condemned for tuberculosis. Nil.

HOUSING.—In Thirsk and Sowerby, as in many other old towns, houses have been built evidently with the idea of getting the maximum population on the minimum space. This is evinced by visiting the various yards where the

houses are crowded together. Apart from this there is as has been reported in previous years an insufficiency in housing accommodation for the working classes. A few new houses have been erected during the year and a few more are being built but at the present rate of house construction it will be some time before the supply will exceed the demand. Houses of such rental as can be accepted by the average working man are lacking and this handicaps the carrying out to the full such changes as are considered advisable. For instance a case of something short of over-crowding is met with. The advice to remove to a larger house is met by way of answer with the question "where am I to get one"? Apart from that many of the houses now occupied would be greatly improved could they be vacated for a short period but this in the absence of the necessary supplement of houses is impossible. The statement required by the (Inspection of District) Regulations is tabulated below.

Number of Dwelling-houses Inspected under the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909. 243.

Number of Dwelling-houses considered unfit for human habitation. 18.

Number of Representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders. 18.

Number of Closing Orders made. 13.

Number of Dwellings with defects remedied without Closing Orders. 158.

Number of Dwelling-houses which	}	Pulled down and
after making of Closing Orders were		rebuilt. 8.
rendered fit for human habitation.		Made habitable 5.

General Character of the defects found. | Result of Preliminary Notices.

Insanitary Privy Ashpits.....	113	Pan Closets provided..	93
Defective Drainage	70	Remedied	56
External Walls in bad repair ..	69	"	54
Defective Roofs	87	"	65
" Eaves Spouting.....	76	"	53
" Floors	66	"	50
Insufficient Light	12	"	9
" Closet Accommodation	16	"	12
Defective Paving	49	"	41

(d.) Sanitary Administration of the District.

The Sanitary Inspector's report is appended with this. The Council provides an Isolation Hospital with accommodation for 8 beds. It has been in use for practically the whole year for the treatment of Scarlet Fever. There is only possibility for treating one class of disease but plans for extension are being considered to enable two different epidemic diseases to be treated concurrently. Cases of Diphtheria occurring at Thornton-le-Moor were treated at Northallerton at the expense of the Council.

The arrangement with the York Nursing Home to supply nurses continues.

There are a caretaker and his wife on the premises.

The same arrangement continues with The Clinical Research Association for Bacteriological work.

4 Widal Reactions of Typhoid Fever gave negative results.

10 Specimens sent for detection of Pulmonary Tuberculosis gave negative results.

2 Specimens sent for the detection of Pulmonary Tuberculosis gave positive results.

One Examination of swab from throat of person suspected of Diphtheria showed an absence of the Klebs Loëffler Bacillus.

(d.) Prevalence of and control over Acute Infectious Diseases.

MEASLES.—In the First Quarter there were 2 cases of Measles in Thirsk and 4 in Sowerby. By the Second Quarter these had given rise to an epidemic which had also spread to Knayton and Topcliffe. From Knayton it spread to Cowesby and Kirby Knowle, in the latter place the School had to be closed. In all 211 cases were reported during the year. In the Fourth Quarter the epidemic had abated.

WHOOPING-COUGH.—54 cases of Whooping-Cough have been reported from the sub-district of Topcliffe. These were mostly from Topcliffe, Dalton, Ainderby

Quernhow and Pickhill. A visit in connection with the epidemic was made to Pickhill School but it was not considered advisable to close the school. 6 cases have been reported in the Thirsk District and 11 in the Sutton District.

TYPHOID FEVER.—2 cases have been notified during the year one of which proved fatal. One occurred in Thirsk in a house visited with the epidemic of 1912. One occurred at Sinderby.

SCARLET FEVER.—36 cases have been notified during the year as against 12 last year. 18 of these were treated in the Isolation Hospital the others were isolated at home. One house assumed the feature of an Isolation Hospital in itself 8 cases occurring in a surprisingly short time. In most of the primary cases no connection could be found between them and other cases. They seemed to occur sporadically all over the District. Not in this District only but all throughout England and Wales where (excluding Ports) 130,626 cases have been notified during the year as against 107,477 in 1912 and 104,617 in 1911. In the North Riding alone 1,205 cases have been notified. 18 out of the 36 cases have been treated in the Isolation Hospital and the result has been satisfactory.

ERYSIPELAS.—4 cases have been notified during the year.

DIPHTHERIA.—7 cases have been notified. 1 from Carlton Miniott, 5 from one house in Thornton-le-Moor (one of which proved fatal), and one from Kirby Wiske. On account of the Isolation Hospital being in use for the treatment of Scarlet Fever these could not be admitted. The third case from Thornton-le-Moor was treated in the Northallerton Hospital at the Councils expense as were also the fourth and fifth cases. One of the cases at Thornton-le-Moor proved fatal.

(e.) Prevalence of and control over Tuberculosis.

14 Cases of Tuberculosis Pulmonary and otherwise under the Notification of Tuberculosis Order 1912 have been notified. On receipt of the Notification a visit has been paid and particulars of suspected cases, &c., taken and

reported on in the monthly reports to the Council. Printed instructions with regard to the hygiene and prevention of spread of the disease are either left or sent. Some of the cases have proved fatal and in the instances the rooms have been disinfected. Owing to the insidious nature of the onset of the disease it is only in a few cases that it is got early. There is an arrangement with the Clinical Research Association whereby bacteriological aids can be obtained for diagnosis.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality for the year is low 79.54 as compared with last year 99.64. The favourable climatic conditions have much to do with this. This is borne out by the fact that in 1911 a favourable year the rate was the lowest for many years 55.14. With this exception it is this year the lowest since 1907. 5 of the deaths were due to Premature Birth, and 4 to Whooping Cough (see Table).

The Birth Rate for the year is the lowest for many years, viz : 20.63 per thousand of the population.

The Death Rate for the year is 12.58 as compared with 12.66 in 1912. 174 Deaths have been registered. Of these the majority are in children under 1 year of age and in persons over 45. Cancer has been responsible for 17 Deaths, a large increase on last year when there were 9. 16 are due to Bronchitis and 16 to Heart Disease ; for classification see Table. On the whole, the record for the year is satisfactory from a Public Health point of view. The Infantile Mortality is low, and although there has been a large number of Infectious Diseases notified, there have been very few Deaths from these.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. G. MACARTHUR.

March 13th, 1914.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.
THIRSK RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each year	BIRTHS			Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Uncor-rected number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District. 8	of Resi-dents not registered in the District. 9	Under 1 year of age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1000	Births	Nett
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			10	11	12	13
1908	12710	284	...	22·34	179	14·08	1	1	32	112·67	179	14·08
1909	12710	291	...	22·89	161	12·66	...	2	25	85·91	163	12·82
1910	12710	301	...	23·68	164	12·90	...	4	30	99·66	168	13·29
1911	12793	270	272	21·26	153	12·03	1	7	15	55·14	159	12·42
1912	12793	280	281	21·96	162	12·66	2	11	28	99·64	171	13·36
1913	12793	264	264	20·63	161	12·58	1	14	21	79·54	174	13·6

Total Population at all ages.....12,793 } at Census 1911
 Number of inhabited houses 2,961 } (cf. Census, Vol V)
 Average number of persons per house 4·32 }

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) **64,024**

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1913.

Thirsk Rural District.

Notifiable Disease.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED							Total Cases notified in each Locality.			Total cases removed to hospital
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years						Thirsk	Topcliffe	Sutton	
		Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65					65 and upwards
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group) ...	7	...	2	4	...	1	...	7	Northallerton I. H. 3.
Erysipelas	4	...	...	1	...	...	2	4	...	...
Scarlet Fever	36	2	4	21	7	1	1	29	4	3	
Enteric Fever	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	1	...
Measles ...	211	3	68	121	16	3	...	186	12	13	
Whooping Cough	71	11	26	32	...	2	...	6	54	11	
Totals.....	331	16	100	179	25	7	3	233	71	27	21

Isolation Hospital, Thirsk, under Thirsk Rural District Council.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and ages at Death during the Year, 1913.

Thirsk Rural District.

Causes of Death.	Net Deaths at the subjoined ages of 'Residents' whether occurring within or without the District									Total Deaths whether of 'Residents' or 'Non-Residents' in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages	Under 1 year.	1 and 2 yrs	2 and 5 yrs	5 and 15 yrs	15 and 25 yrs	25 and 45 yrs	45 and 65 yrs	65 and upwards.	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All causes	174	21	4	6	3	5	23	40	72	14
Enteric Fever	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	3	..
Influenza	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	3	2	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	9	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	7	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	9	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease	17	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Rheumatic Fever	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Organic heart disease	16	1	..	..	..	1	2	5	7	..
Bronchitis	16	2	1	1	..	..	..	5	7	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	1	2	..	..	..	1	1	1	..
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	3	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Alcoholism	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth	6	6	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	1
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Suicide	2	..	..	2	2	2	6	11	42	11
Other defined Diseases	71	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	174	21	4	6	3	5	23	40	72	14

TABLE IV.

Thirsk Rural District.

Infantile Mortality.

1913. *Net Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.*

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 3 months	3 months & under 6 months	6 months & under 9 months	9 months & under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
	5	..	..	1	6	7	5	1	2	21
All causes { Certified .. Uncertified ..	5	..	..	1	6	7	5	1	2	21
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	1	4
Convulsions	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	3
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Diarrhoea...	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Gastritis	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Atelectasia...	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Premature Birth	5	..	..	1	5	..	..	..	..	5
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Other Causes	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2
Totals	5	..	..	1	6	7	5	1	2	21

Net births in the year { legitimate 253
illegitimate 11

Net deaths in the year of { legitimate infants 18
illegitimate infants 3

Rural District of Thirsk.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homework.

Inspections, including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector of Nuisances—Factories (including Factory Laundries)— 52

Defects—Nuisances under the Public Health Acts : Found—1. Remedied 1

Registered Workshops—Workshops on the Register at the end of the year : 82

Report of the Inspector of Nuisances

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST,

—1913.—

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my second Annual Report as Inspector of Nuisances for your District.

In the Report are recorded the number of inspections made, and the result of action taken under the various Acts in force in the District concerning public health.

During the year 786 inspections of various kinds have been made. In addition to a number of verbal requests 106 informal notices were served. Nine statutory notices to provide a proper water supply were also served. The notices, in most cases, have been complied with, or will shortly be complied with.

HOUSING & TOWN PLANNING ACTS, &c.

During the year 243 houses have been inspected under these Acts, with the following results :

20 houses were found to be satisfactory ; closing orders were made in connection with 13 houses, 8 of which have been pulled down and rebuilt, and the other 5 have been made habitable. The remaining houses were found to be defective in some way or other, as will be seen from the following list of defects found.

Insanitary Privy Ashpits, 113

Defective Drainage, 70

External Walls in bad repair, 69

Defective Roofs, 87

Defective Eaves, Spouting, etc., 76

Defective Floors, 66

Insufficient Light, 12

Insufficient Closet accommodation, 16

Defective Paving, 49

Preliminary notices to have the defects remedied were served upon the different owners with the following results :

Pan Closets provided, 93
 Drains Repaired, 56
 Walls Repaired, 54
 Roofs Repaired, 65
 New Eaves, Spouting, etc. fixed, 53
 Floors Repaired, 50
 Rooms provided with more light, 9
 Paving repaired, 41
 158 Houses have been repaired.

In addition to the above, 30 privy Ashpits have been abolished, and 41 Pan Closets have been provided in their places, and in some cases sanitary Dustbins have also been provided. 23 cases of defective Drainage (in addition to the above) have also been dealt with, and in all cases the defects have been remedied.

At Carlton Miniott a new length of sewer has been laid and other portions re-laid.

Six cases of Nuisances arising from the accumulation of manure, ashes, etc., and 2 cases from the keeping of Fowls, have been dealt with and remedied.

COWSHEDS.

There are 42 persons registered under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order. Several of the Cowsheds have been inspected and found to be fairly satisfactory. Requests made to have the walls whitewashed have been complied with.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The number of Slaughter houses on the Register is 10. These have been inspected, and found to be clean and satisfactory. Visits have occasionally been made at times of slaughtering.

FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS.

The number of Factories and Workshops on the Register is 82. Several inspections have been made by the Medical Officer of Health and myself, and with the exception of 1 which required limewashing, the premises were found to be satisfactory.

SCHOOLS.

16 Schools have been inspected by the Medical Officer of Health and myself, and with the exception of a few small defects, were found to be satisfactory. The defects have mostly been remedied.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

The common Lodging House in Thirsk has been inspected and found to be clean and satisfactory.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

As your Inspector under these Acts I have inspected most of the premises upon which Petroleum and Carbide of Calcuim are stored, and these appear to be in order. The number of persons licensed is 19 (15 for storing Petroleum and 4 for storing Carbide of Calcuim.)

HOUSE SCAVENGING.

The removal of house and other refuse in Thirsk and Sowerby has been done by the Council. During the year 4123 Ashpits have been emptied, and 2734 loads of refuse removed. In addition to the number of Ashpits emptied, about 300 Pan Closets have been emptied weekly.

The House Scavenging in the other Parishes is done by the Householders themselves.

DISINFECTION.

During the year 40 houses have been disinfected after Infectious Diseases. 10 Schools in Thirsk, Sowerby, Kirkby Knowle, and Kilburn have also been disinfected.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALFRED GREEN,

Inspector of Nuisances.